

The United States Gymnastics Federation's

Gymnastics News

May•June 1978•Vol. VII, No. 3



1978
Dial•American Cup
Winners



Kurt Thomas/USA
Natascha Tereschenko/USSR

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The United States Gymnastics Federation's

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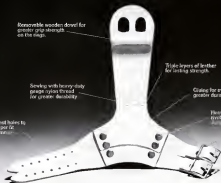
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Editorial

Frank L. Bare
Executive Director

The USGF has participated in a number of international events of significance during the past few months. The gymnasts who have made those trips and represented our country have done even better than we had hoped. If the talent shown us at the women's Championships of the U.S.A. can perform as a team in Strasbourg they should do quite well for our nation. The men's Championships at UCLA will also see the finest performers we have ever had take to the floor for qualification into the World Championship Trials.

The final trials for the USA teams will take place in September of this year. The top six men and women from that trial will be the USA team . . . number seven will be the alternate. Mrs. Emogene Weaver of Clarion State College (Pa) has been named women's coach and her assistant coach is Mr. Vannic Edwards of Belcher, La. The men's coach and assistant will be named at UCLA therefore they are not yet known as of this writing.

"The American attitude is not to use sport for political arenas . . . If any nation withdraws from a world championship, all that is accomplished is that some of the world's finest young athletes are denied an opportunity forever."

Strasbourg, in October will be the site of one of the most interesting World Championships of all time. It will not be without the usual run of problems. Will South Africa participate? They are entitled to by virtue of their bona-fide membership in the F.I.G. If

they do participate will the Socialist nations boycott? Time alone will tell us the answer to that question but it poses some interesting problems for participants and hosts. The American attitude is not to use sport for political arenas. If we defied the policy of a particular nation we would prefer to beat them soundly on the floor of competition before the whole world. If any nation withdraws from a world championship, all that is accomplished is that some of the world's finest young athletes are denied an opportunity forever. The 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal being the finest example over of that political use of a boycott. The black African nations withdrew, over the weakest of reasons . . . New Zealand's presence. The Games went right on, viewed by all the world. And one day after the great athletes of the boycotting nations departed, no one gave them a passing thought. No governments changed policies, only some deserving athletes went home having missed perhaps their one greatest opportunity of a lifetime.

Plan on travelling with the USA Team to Strasbourg . . . with the USGF Tour . . . see the World Championships and enjoy France and Switzerland at the same time.

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World Championships Tour/1978
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The CSSR Cup

Kosice, Czechoslovakia • April 13-14, 1978

Donna Strauss

Leslie Pyfer (DAAG), and Gigi Ambados (Parkettes), Linda Chencinski (Judge) and myself left New York on April 10. Sixteen hours later we arrived in Kosice to spend our first night in a small hotel in the mountains.

The next morning as hungry as we were upon being served our first breakfast we quickly realized that Mr. Bare was right . . . we should have packed a jar of peanut butter.

After breakfast we drove back to the city of Kosice and went directly to the Sports hall for our first practice session. We used the competitive gym which was adequately set up with Reuther equipment — 1 set of each piece — plus 2 lower beams — no spring boards — landing pads were 2" in thickness, 4'x5' over Sarnage mats.

After a two hour workout we finally arrived at the motel we were to stay at for the remainder of our trip. The afternoon practice session went much better since they had a split session and only half of the delegations worked out together.

Competition Day

Unfortunately Gigi became ill during the night with a virus. After spending the morning in bed she decided to compete. Leslie and I attended a welcoming ceremony by city officials at the town. We also had the opportunity to visit an enormous cathedral which was built in the 12th century.

Competition

There were 36 competitors representing the following countries: CSSR, USSR, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Poland, Belgium. All nations entered three competitors except the CSSR with nine and the U.S.A. with only two.

The first days competition determined the all-around with finals made up of the top eight competi-

tors per event. The Russians finished the AA 1-2-3. Leslie was 6th and Gigi finished 9th.

Vaulting

Leslie scored a 9.25 on a piked Tsukahara, which put her in 7th place. Gigi received a 9.15 for a handspring full.

Balance Beam

Leslie had a fall on a backhandspring series on an otherwise flawless routine giving her a 9.0. Gigi had a fall on her back tuck and a fall on the beam for an 8.35.

Floor Exercise

Both girls performed exciting routines and received a positive audience reaction. Leslie scored a 9.25 and qualified for finals finishing 2nd. Her tumbling was impressive — high double full and a strong full at the end. Gigi scored 8.9 to qualify for finals. Her full at the end was low.

Larisa Milovanova scored the highest with a 9.55. Excellent high tumbling — opened with a double back and ended with a double back.

Uneven Bars

Leslie had super bars: free hip handstand to a back staiter, handstand, back staiter handstand to a push back sommie over the low bar. Dismount had a hand touch and she scored a 9.0. Gigi performed an excellent routine for a 9.45, 3rd place finish into finals.

Finals

Vaulting finals were exciting: 1st place went to Taina Aranzkova of the USSR — Tsuk full performed better than Nellie Kim and a front pike — for an average score of 9.525.



Leslie moved from 7th to 5th place – Fixed Toak and a front somersault back for an 9.35 average. (2nd highest average in finale).

Uneven Bars – Gigi performed an excellent bar routine: Back Stalter shoot to a handstand was a little short, for a 9.25. She maintained her 3rd place and won the bronze medal. Gigi received an ovation as she kissed the 1st place Russian and the 2nd place Czech during the Award Ceremony. First place again went to USSR Tana Arznskova with a 9.55 – free hip full pirouette and Comaneci dismount with a full.

Balance Beam – Leslie had a flawless routine but again fell on the back-handspring for a 9.0 and 6th place. The audience was impressed with the position and the amount of difficulty in her routine – gainer back back, front somie, high straddle leap, back handspring, back handspring, and double back twist dismount. Winning beam with a 9.55, (high score) was Larisa Milovanova USSR – Flawless super difficult routine – Mt. – front sommie – roundoff layout stepout – full turning jump. Dismount – back double back.

Floor Exercise – the American girls performed dynamic routines and received a strong positive audience reaction. Leslie had a hand touch on her double back but ended with a high double full twist. She expressed throughout the routine and received a 9.25 for 4th place. Gigi received a 9.25 for a 6th place finish. Again the composition and elegant performance was above the other competitors. Larisa Milovanova was again the 1st place competitor with a 9.65. Excellent dynamic tumbling – double back – double full in the 2nd pass and a double back at the end. The composition of this routine came the closest to the Americans.

Observations

- 1) Russian competitors finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd,

Their routines had several superior tricks. However they were not spotted once during their workouts or in the competition. Their attitude was very positive and aggressive.

- 2) No extra landing pads were used during the competition.
- 3) It would have been fitted our gymnasts if we could have arrived one day earlier.
- 4) Super tricks -
 - Vaulting -
 - Tuck full
 - front pike
 - front pike with 1/2 twist
 - Tuck layout
 - Uneven Bars -
 - free hip full pike onto
 - single bar hecht back mount -
 - free hip on low bar facing away from the high bar - front somme catch high bar
 - dismount - Comered with a full dismount - double flyway
 - Balance Beam -
 - front somme mount
 - tuck double back dismount
 - several back combination series showed a high punch before somme trick
 - Russian difficult dance
 - round off back layout
 - Floor Exercise -
 - lacking in composition and presentation
 - difficult tumbling (USSR & USSR):
 - 1st run - piked double back
 - 2nd run - double full
 - 3rd run - tuck double back
 - 2 girls mounted and dismounted with double backs
- 5) Beam and floor routines without high difficulty, if performed well, scored above 9.0.
- 6) Americans well respected by the audience.

Summary

In summation we would like to thank the Czech's for their hospitality and the friendly atmosphere under which we visited them.

Gymnastically the entire U.S. envoy shared a positive meaningful experience which will greatly enhance all our careers.

We were extremely proud to represent our country and would like to thank the U.S.G.F. for giving us the opportunity. ●

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CHALK UP SHOP

Tournament of Champions-East Berlin

East Berlin, GDR • April 15-16, 1978

Chic Johnson USA Coach

Gymnasts representing the USA:

Kelly McCoy, TWIGS - Miamiburg, Ohio
Kellen Casey, Southwest Missouri State University
Bart Connor, University of Oklahoma
Mike Wilson, University of Oklahoma

Coaches:

Dr. Chic Johnson, Southwest Missouri State
University
Mr. Paul Ziert, University of Oklahoma

Judges:

Mr. Bill Rostkaphin, University of Illinois
Chicago Circle

The delegation left for the GDR on April 12 from New York's JFK airport. The flight itself proved beneficial in developing rapport between the individuals, for the AJAW and NCAA National Gymnastics Championships had recently been concluded, and this proved to be a stimulating topic of discussion. It was surprising how knowledgeable each of the individuals was of the others' involvement in their respective competitions. This established an immediate mutual respect and enthusiasm among the group and by the end of the 7½ hour flight it seemed as if we had been traveling and competing together all year.

We left JFK at 6:15 p.m. and arrived in Copenhagen at 8:05 a.m. the next morning. Losing a night's sleep was difficult, but we had a four hour layover prior to taking off for East Germany and Bart and Mike rented a bed and sacked out for a few hours. The remainder of us killed time as best we could, playing cards, catching cat-naps, and wandering around in a half-stupor.

We arrived in East Berlin at 1:00 p.m. We were met by the GDR representatives and introduced to one another. Mrs. Karin Wildgrube was to be our hostess, and Beate Ramin, a student at the university was to serve as our interpreter. These two lovely ladies proved to be exceptional in their respective capacities, and we were grateful for the many kindnesses and the generosity they bestowed on us.

We went to the Berlin Stradt Hotel where we were to be housed, and then on to the gymnasium for a short workout. The gymnasium was located in a large sports complex, and although rather old, it was a fine gym. The equipment was not assembled in its finished manner for competition — nor was this to be the case right up to the day of competition — so we worked on moves and sequences under less than ideal circumstances.

During the time that we were in the GDR we were treated very graciously. Perhaps the major problem that we encountered was that the hosts were too kind, always filling up every minute with tours, visits, meals, etc. so that we had no time to relax or unwind. This sometimes was frustrating, yet if we begged off from attending a function, or not eating a meal, it seemed to offend them a great deal. Our hosts presented us with 50 marks apiece (approximately \$25.00). This was to be used for spending money, but all other amenities were paid for by the GDR Sports Federation.

We had good workout sessions leading up to the competition, although Kelly had a great deal of problems with the uneven bars. The lower rail was broken on the Reuther System bars during an early workout and the bar they put on as a replacement was much larger than a regulation bar in its circumference (this was quite noticeable for the bar had to be filed down quite some bit in order to fit into the sleeve at the

top of the upgrin!). Other than that and a bit of adjustment in getting use to the beam, there appeared to be minimal problems. Kelly and Kolleen had a fine attitude going into the competition, although everyone could have used more rest.

Competition

There were twenty-eight gymnasts in the competition (female), grouped into four squads of seven gymnasts each. Although there were supposed to be two gymnasts from each of fourteen countries, some of the nations did not show up and replacements were made from the GDR, so they had six of their own gymnasts in the meet.

During competition on Day one, the squad with Kelly and Kolleen drew balance beam as their first event and Kelly was the first performer and Kolleen was second. They only dropped one performer as they rotated to each event, so Kolleen was first on floor, and then the girls had good placements on vaulting and uneven bars.

"It appeared that it was going to be impossible to beat the GDR gymnasts on their home floor, and that was precisely true."

Kelly and Kolleen performed very well, although the scores do not bear this out too well. Despite the reputation for scoring relatively high in international competition . . . the scores in this meet were held down significantly. Although the scoring was very conservative, I felt that it was quite fair in most instances. The GDR gymnasts received obvious "gifts" from the judges, ranging anywhere from .2 to .5 high. It appeared that it was going to be impossible to beat the GDR gymnasts on their home floor, and that was precisely true.

Top Six Gymnasts

| | | Vault | Bars | Beam | Floor | All-Ar'd |
|---------------------|------|-------|------|------|-------|----------|
| Trantow, Sigrid | GDR | 9.20 | 9.60 | 9.30 | 9.30 | 37.60 |
| Kunhardt, Kerke | GDR | 9.40 | 9.35 | 9.05 | 9.35 | 37.35 |
| Gausch, Maja | GDR | 9.40 | 9.30 | 8.95 | 9.35 | 37.30 |
| Nikolajentrow, Jel. | USSR | 9.35 | 8.90 | 9.45 | 9.45 | 37.15 |
| Namuschina, Jel. | USSR | 9.30 | 9.45 | 9.65 | 9.15 | 36.85 |
| Casey, Kolleen | USA | 9.05 | 9.45 | 8.95 | 8.95 | 36.40 |

Finals Vault

| | | |
|---------------------|------|--------|
| Namuschina, Jelena | USSR | 18.50 |
| Gausch, Maja | GDR | 18.425 |
| Nikolajentrow, Jel. | USSR | 18.425 |
| McCoy, Kelly | USA | 18.375 |

Balance Beam

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| Trantow, Sigrid | GDR | 19.15 |
| Nikolajentrow, Jel. | USSR | 18.45 |
| Casey, Kolleen | USA | 18.40 |
| Namuschina, Jelena | USSR | 18.25 |

Uneven Bars

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------|
| Trantow, Sigrid | GDR | 19.20 |
| Kunhardt, Kerke | GDR | 19.20 |
| Casey, Kolleen | USA | 18.85 |
| McCoy, Kelly | USA | 18.70 |

Floor Exercises

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| Trantow, Sigrid | GDR | 18.70 |
| Nikolajentrow, Jel. | USSR | 18.55 |
| Namuschina, Jelena | USSR | 18.25 |
| Kunhardt, Kerke | GDR | 18.20 |

Kolleen Casey also came in sixth in vaulting and floor exercise.

The USA gymnasts did very well in this competition. While claiming a neutral vision (???) I felt that Kelly was underscored in balance beam and significantly so in vaulting. Kelly did a good floor exercise, throwing the best double back in the meet, but had the misfortune of over-rotating it which cost her dearly. Also, Kolleen was grossly underscored in vaulting, and slightly so in balance beam and floor exercise. Other than that I felt the judging was proper, but quite low.

The draw in finals consistently placed the GDR girls near the last, and this was especially true when there was a competitor close to her in score.

The Russian gymnasts warmed up in between other gymnasts during finals, without penalty!

One of the Russian gymnasts used a band for her floor exercise music (it sounded like Herb Alpert's *Tijuana Brass*) . . . no penalty.

Our interpreter was a tremendous help, but when

(Continued on page 18)

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(Continued from page 4)

it came to protesting conduct like that mentioned above, she could not seem to be able to communicate very well!!!

General Comments

The trip was successful. It provided good exposure for the American gymnasts and a newspaper article claimed that the Americans were the surprise of the meet, doing far better than was expected. Although I do not have the scores of the men's competition, Bart and Mike did a fantastic job. Bart was 2nd AA, and captured a couple of 2nd and a couple of 3rd places along with a 1st in sidehorse. Kolleen, Bart and Mike made finals in every event, and Kelly made finals in vaulting and uneven bars (eight performers selected for finals in each event).

The American gymnasts moved freely, with confidence and composure throughout the meet. They undoubtedly left a favorable impression with judges, spectators, and other gymnasts. Along with the fine newspaper article on the Americans, our interpreter told us of many compliments passed on about the American showing.

I was immensely proud to be a member of the American delegation, for I would find it difficult to imagine a finer group of young athletes to be associated with than Kolleen, Kelly, Mike and Bart. My congratulations to this group of competitors for their excellent showing, and for their marvelous behavior and attitude throughout the entire trip. ●

Next Issue:

Men's & Women's Championships/USA



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Tournament of Champions East Berlin

East Berlin, GDR • April 15-16, 1978

William Roetzheim
Judge

The bulk of the text of our gymnastics experience in the D.D.R. has been most amply covered by our two coaches, "Chic" Johnson and Paul Zierl. I have been asked to briefly comment on the technical aspect of this competition.

First let me say as an observer not directly interacting with our teams that Chic and Paul did an outstanding job. Our gymnasts were ready to compete psychologically as well as physically, which accounted for their outstanding performance.

It is obvious in all invitations that the competition is structured to produce successful results for the host nation. The only way the visiting team can hope to have some degree of success is to be represented by a judge. His presence on the floor is not only a threat to the nation who is holding the competition, but his voice at technical meetings prior to the event is most important.

The D.D.R. was a most gracious host. I believe this favorable climate was in some degree the result of Canada, Finland, England and France all cancelling at the last moment. They felt that this was a general conspiracy among the Western Bloc Nations to boycott this affair. You can imagine their relief when the U.S.A. walked in two days prior to the meet. The political advantage we gained by our action made the trip worthwhile even if we were not as successful as we were in competition.


I mentioned earlier how most international meets are orchestrated to produce winning results for the host nation. This meet was no exception. Every team had two entries with the exception of the D.D.R. who was permitted to enter nine. With this numerical advantage and other factors being equal it is quite ob-

vious that your probability of advancing a high percentage of gymnasts to the finals would be high. Combining this with three out of four home town judges per event and your chance of success escalates rapidly.

To make sure you have covered any unexpected situation that may arise you sit at all the judges at the same table which will permit them to interact and exchange information while the meet is in progress.

I do not know how my pointing this out to them prior to the competition affected our scores, but although some nations were scored low, we for the most part were scored quite accurate. They also utilized me as a superior judge and assigned me more events in the finals than any other official. This I imagine had to be a deviation from the original game plan. Despite the adverse structure we qualified both our gymnasts in all six events.

One added benefit we derived from this meet was the opportunity to evaluate the depth of the D.D.R. program. It was my observation that after the first three or four gymnasts there was a rapid decline in the proficiency of the gymnast and by the time you got to their ninth man the skill level was reduced to mediocrity.

In summation, the judging of our gymnasts was fair (for an international meet), the hospitality extended to us was outstanding and the rapport we developed with the East Germans will benefit our program for many years .

The Romanian Invitational

Bucur, Romania • April 19-23, 1978

Ken Allen

Our number one male and female competitors, their coaches and one male judge were sent to the Romanian Invitational by the USGF. Although we all started our journeys in different ways the final leg of the journey began in Heathrow Airport in London on Wednesday, April 19, at 1:40 p.m. Kurt Thomas and his coach Roger Council had been in London since the previous Thursday training for Champions All. I arrived Saturday morning and was able to enjoy watching Kurt and Donna Tumbow win the all around titles in the afternoon's competition. Donna returned to the U.S. with her coach Jim Fountain and the rest of us joined up with Kathy Johnson and her coach Varian Edwards who had left from Belcher, Louisiana, Tuesday, (April 18) morning.

We arrived at Bucharest at 7:30 p.m. and were met very enthusiastically by representatives of the Romanian Gymnastics Federation and an interpreter. We went through the usual rather lengthy security procedures and then were taken by bus to a hotel. We were to leave the next morning for Bacau which was about 400 kilometers to the north as the federation chose a hotel directly across from the train station.

We were up at 5:30 a.m. and on the train at 7:00 a.m. They had packed some food for us as our breakfast.

We were at our hotel in Bacu by noon, ate light, and then went to the gymnasium so Kurt could train. There would be a separate workout time for the women. I was elected Chief de Mission by a 2-1 vote and spent some time with our interpreter determining times and places for meetings, training, competition, meals, and transportation. Everything was very well arranged. Our biggest problem was placing our order for meals for all the time we were to be there.

Sanda, our young (21) but very capable interpreter helped us quite a bit.

The first technical meeting was held on Thursday evening. The gymnasts were drawn for groups and order in a very equitable way. Roger, Varian and I were there along with our interpreter to cover all of our areas of concern. With all the translating and slight differences in format it takes quite a bit of time before things become clear. Everything was well organized and the various administrative personnel for the meet were patient in answering our questions.

We had our first judges meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning. The announcement of judges was made and I would be superior judge on floor exercise and vaulting throughout the competition. Judging with me would be a Hungarian, an Italian and two Romanians. I would also be a member of the Jury of Appeals along with the Director of Judges, Robert Podlaha, the Secretary General of the Romanian Federation, Nicholas Viere, and the Chief de Mission from Russia. There was only one group of men's judges in which we had three Romanian judges. This was in contrast to the women where there would be three Romanian judges on each of the women's events. This, combined with the fact that there was no U.S. judge for women gave some cause for concern.

I got my group of judges together and we discussed the floor exercise event in length. We were not very concerned about style of arm movements. We would concentrate on evaluating height of tumbling, rhythm of parts and passes and obvious form errors. We decided to deduct .2 each for extra steps before tumbling passes. The Italian judge felt that we should deduct up to .3 for not coming into an immediate straddle piked position from the head-

spring, I thought that was too much and recommended up to .3. There was nothing discussed on vaulting that we haven't discussed at great length already in this country.

"I found the judging to be typically European in that it was not very critical of technical problems. Things that had to be watched for carefully were not, in fact."

The compulsory session for men began at 11:00 a.m. The gymnasts would work in Olympic order. Since we only had three groups of judges, our group started on floor exercise, moved to vaulting for three rotations and returned for the last two rotations to floor exercise. I found the judging to be typically European in that it was not very critical of technical problems. Things that had to be watched for carefully were not, in fact. I called several conferences and found that deductions were not being made for extra steps nor for holding the handstand following the grass. We did not have many problems on vaulting. When we returned for the last two rotations of floor exercise the situation improved.

I feel as though there was a definite attempt to pump the scores for the better Romanians and to hold down Kurt's scores. Where it was subtle, I could do little about it. When it was flagrant, I brought

them in and changed scores. I felt very fair in my over all evaluations. My most difficult time came when Copci received 8.2 from one Romanian, 8.3 from the Hungarian, 8.4 from the Italian and 9.0 from the other Romanian. I had 7.9. The judge with the 9.0 demanded a conference and I told him we had nothing to discuss, that the scores were in range and in order. The coach came out on the floor and I asked him to leave. He wrote a protest which was presented to me after the event was over by the Director of Judges.

During the discussion I explained my deductions. There were only .5 in judgment type deductions. The rest were fairly straight forward obvious errors made by the gymnast. The other Romanian judge (8.2) had second thoughts and felt he should raise his score to 8.7. I insisted that no individual scores would be changed at that time. Only the average score might be changed if we all agreed on it and I assured the Director of the Judges that we would not. I assured him that Copci was one of my favorite gymnasts and it was a shame that he performed so poorly. I also reminded him of the speech he made to the judges beforehand about all of us forgetting the country we represented while we were on the floor judging. He decided that our score was a just one and the score remained as it was. An interesting footnote is that when I spoke to the Romanian coach following the competition he went out of his way to let me know that he was not upset at me at all. He was furious with the Romanian judge who gave Copci the 8.2!

Roger Council pointed out that the meet was used as a national trial and, as such, probably "complicated judging with regional biases within Romania as well as between nations." Roger was able to watch

all six events and felt as though Cipeș and Georgescu were both better gymnasts than Grecu but that the judges usually pumped Grecu's scores. I would say that was definitely the case on my events but there was little that I could do about it because he did not make many obvious errors.

We had a few more problems during the optionals. Whenever I called the judges together to raise or lower a score of a gymnast not in the "Top Four" the change was made very easily. Whenever the conference concerned Kurt or a Romanian, the conversation was lengthy and I would draw a crowd consisting of the meet director, his assistant, the Director of Judges and some other officers of the Federation. I had to fight to get Kurt .05 on vaulting. I had the Hungarian and Indian agreeing with me and six other people standing around demanding that the scores be lowered. During the last rotation on floor exercise, the Romanian judge who got himself in the doghouse the day before gave Kurt an 8.9 on floor. The other three judges gave a 9.3 and I had 9.4. I told that judge (8.9) there was no purpose in having a conference especially in light of the fact that his fellow Romanian agreed with us all. He hollered something in Romanian to his buddy and we went on. Later he wanted Georgescu's score raised to the 9.7 he gave him. Fortunately his buddy's score again agreed with the 9.5 the rest of us gave him. Perhaps they make doghouses in Romania which are large enough for two people.

Another problem which arose involved the official scoresheet. Most people probably realize that when judging an international meet the scoring is closed. That, of course, means that all judges place their marks on slips of paper and they are passed to the superior judge who passes them on to a person who records them on a scoresheet. This scoresheet is signed by all the judges after each rotation and it becomes the official scoresheet. I decided I should check all the individual recorded scores as well as the averages. I found no less than a dozen errors in the three days of competition. I am sure they were honest recording errors but they were nevertheless errors which could have changed the outcome of the meet. It seems to be something which should not be overlooked.

The most interesting gymnasts had to be the Russians. Although they were young and, as yet, unrefined, their performances reflected a definite trend in their training. Roger and I both agreed that it was they who had the "biggest tricks" in their exercises. Bogdan did a flyaway 1/3 twist straddle pike regrab and finished with a full in full out on horizontal bar. Lev did a reverse hecht regrab and finished with a

map down half in half out on the same event. One of them finished with a back somersault on pommel horse which was described by Roger as "the ugliest angular movement I have ever seen in gymnastics." Bogdan performed a floor exercise routine with a very unusual style. There was much ballet and lunging which didn't come off very well. He tumbled well, however, starting with a full in and ending with a double back. In addition to the Russians there must have been at least eight gymnasts who had more than one double somersault in their floor exercise.

"The most interesting gymnasts had to be the Russians."

When the dust cleared Kurt had retained the Romanian Invitational All Around Championship by the great margin of .05. Everyone agreed that he was the best gymnast there. The judges were congratulated for their success in selecting the true champion. We all shook hands and left the arena with smiles on our faces. Everything had gone as everyone expected it would!!

That evening I experienced one of the fringe benefits of being the Chef de Mission. All the Chiefs of Delegations along with their interpreters were bussed to a small Romanian Restaurant north of town. We were met by the mayor of Bacau and other dignitaries. There must have been 40-50 of us in all. We enjoyed an evening of live Romanian music, Romanian cuisine, international conversation, joviality, receiving of souvenirs of our trip to Bacau, lots of wine and some international dancing. We were made to feel very welcome.

Other than the fact that they started at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, the finals were a pleasure. Hass for any country was minimized. The only ones complaining were the Russians and I agreed with them most of the time. As a member of the jury, I became involved in several protests whereby we granted up to .15 to a performer. Actually the situations were handled fairly well.

Kurt had a bruised foot, was showing signs of fatigue from the entire trip and was just not mentally up for the day's competition. He decided to mount with a double full on floor in place of his double back but he had several very rough places. I was biting my lip when I gave him a 9.0. I was shocked at his 9.3 average and decided that I was probably prejudiced because I expected more from him. I decided

not to call the judges in. He had a very good pommel horse set and was probably slightly underscored at 9.55 but it was enough for him to win the event. Roger decided to scratch him from rings. His first vault was great in the air but the zone faulted before he left the horse and overturned the landing. It was a piked Tsukahara. Average score 8.6. Despite the 9.6 he received on his full twisting Tsukahara he did not make it to the awards stand. His parallel bar exercise was very good. He was not exceptionally sharp but did everything well and finished his double back dismount with only a slight stop. Georgesac and Capot who were sitting in front of him did not fare nearly so well and Kurt passed them up to win this event also.

As he marched out for the last event he signaled with his index finger - one more go to! He really went at it and had an excellent performance. Score - 9.70! Unfortunately he had come off the bar on his height half turn straddle swingup the day before and scored only 8.9. He finished like a champion but had to settle for fourth place on horizontal bar.

The closing ceremonies were fairly elaborate. There were mass floor exercises to music by young girls. Flowers were given to all of the performers and some were thrown up into the audience. Members of the Jury of Appeals and other dignitaries presented beautiful varnished wood trophies, medals and certificates to the high place finishers. The crowd of about 4,000 (jacked house) was most appreciative. In fact, throughout the competition Kurt probably received more applause than any Romanian. Being with Kurt and Kathy after such a competition is somewhat of a hassle but we managed to bull our way through the large crowd of admiring people outside of the competition hall and were aided by the NBC people who provided transportation for us back to the hotel.

A very well organized banquet commenced at 3:00 p.m. Speeches were short, the food was good and there was the traditional exchanging of gifts. For a while following the banquet we all stayed around saying goodbye to old friends and the new ones we had made over the past few days. We then packed up and headed for the train station. We made the return trip to Bucharest and stayed the night in the same hotel. In the morning we were driven by bus to the airport where our interpreter saw us through. We went to Frankfurt, London and then New York before we all parted ways.

In summary it was an excellent trip. We were treated very well all along the way. I think we made strides with the performances of our gymnasts and

(Continued on page 30)

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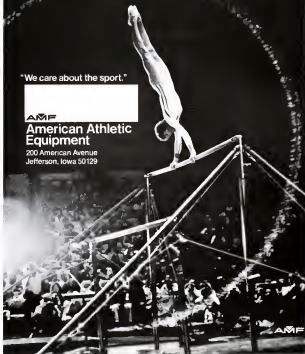


Photo courtesy USGF

1978 Dial-American Cup

Kurt Thomas/USA
Natascha Tereschenko/USSR





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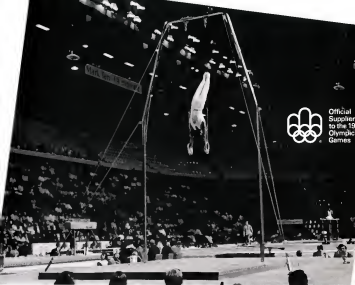
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1978

Diol-American Cup
Preliminary Scores
All-Around Competition
Women

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Tereschenko, N. | USSR | 38.30 |
| 2. Johnson, K. | USA | 38.25 |
| 3. Cerna, V. | CSSR | 37.65 |
| 4. Gheorghiu, G. | ROM | 37.48 |
| 5. Kanyo, E. | HUN | 37.25 |
| 6. Marechikova, E. | CSSR | 37.20 |
| 7. Sarsz, B. | DDR | 37.20 |
| 8. Egervari, M. | HUN | 36.90 |
| 9. Neacsa, M. | ROM | 36.85 |
| 10. Schlegel, E. | CAN | 36.80 |
| 11. Shaposhnikova, N. | USSR | 36.55 |
| 12. Casper, K. | DDR | 36.50 |
| 13. Tumbow, D. | USA | 36.30 |
| 14. Kano | JAP | 35.85 |
| 15. Schumacher Y. | SWITZ | 35.70 |
| 16. Somaynethi, V. | FRA | 35.55 |
| 17. Carrascosa | BRA | 35.40 |
| 18. Audin N. | FRA | 35.15 |
| 19. Robb, K. | G.B. | 35.05 |
| 20. Tajima | JAP | 33.05 |

FINALS:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| 1. Tereschenko, N. | USSR | 38.35 |
| 2. Johnson, K. | USA | 37.95 |
| 3. Marechikova, E. | CSSR | 37.65 |
| 4. Cerna, V. | CSSR | 37.50 |
| 5. Egervari, M. | HUNG | 37.35 |
| 6. Sarsz, B. | DDR | 37.10 |
| 7. Kanyo, E. | HUNG | 36.70 |
| 8. Gheorghiu, G. | ROM | 36.65 |





1978 Dial-American Cup Preliminary Scores All-Around Competition Men



| | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Thomas, K. | USA | 56.65 |
| 2. | Kishinakov, S. | USSR | 55.50 |
| 3. | Bruckner, R. | DDR | 55.40 |
| 4. | Conner, B. | USA | 55.35 |
| 5. | Tsukshara, M. | JAP | 55.30 |
| 6. | Boerio, H. | FRA | 54.75 |
| 7. | Bretscher, R. | SWITZ | 54.55 |
| 8. | Cepoi, S. | ROM | 53.90 |
| 9. | Dornith, F. | HUN | 53.65 |
| 10. | Kovacs, P. | HUN | 53.50 |
| 11. | Kasai | JAP | 53.50 |
| 12. | Tahak, J. | CSSR | 53.35 |
| 13. | Mack, L. | DDR | 53.20 |
| 14. | Higley, J. | CSSR | 52.85 |
| 15. | Choquette, J. | CAN | 52.80 |
| 16. | Boutard, M. | FRA | 52.50 |
| 17. | Popescu | ROM | 51.95 |
| 18. | Arnold, E. | G.B. | 51.65 |
| 19. | Garcia, J. | MEX | 47.15 |



FINALS:

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Thomas, K. | USA | 57.95 |
| 2. | Bruckner, R. | DDR | 56.55 |
| 3. | Conner, B. | USA | 56.45 |
| 4. | Kishinakov, S. | USSR | 56.25 |
| 5. | Tsukshara, M. | JAP | 56.20 |
| 6. | Cepoi, S. | ROM | 55.05 |
| 7. | Bretscher, R. | SWITZ | 55.00 |
| 8. | Boerio, H. | FRA | 54.35 |



Florida After The Dial-American Cup



Julius Allen Photographs

THE UNITED STATES GYMNASTICS FEDERATION PRESENTS:

1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL TRIALS

September 21, 22, 23, 1978

The Final Trials, for the United States teams to participate in the 1978 World Championships scheduled for Strasbourg, France in late October, will be held at the beautiful MYRIAD CENTER in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The dates are September 21-22-23. The men's and women's trials will be held at the same time, in this spacious and modern Arena that seats some 16,000 spectators. ABC-TV will be present to film the trials which take place just one month before the opening of the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS on October 22 in France.

The women's competition will feature a double round of routines, whereas the men will perform one set of compulsories and one set of optionals. The top six men and women will be named the U.S.A. Teams, and the seventh man and woman will be the alternates. Scores will be combined . . . the women then will count four sets of routines, two each of the current Olympic compulsories (which will be used in France) and their own optionals. The Women's team will be determined on the final day, Saturday, September 23. The men's team will be selected based on two sets of routines, the compulsories and optionals combined. The three day schedule is as follows:

(Prelims) **Thursday—September 21**

10:00 a.m. Compulsories — Women
2:00 p.m. Compulsories — Men
7:30 p.m. Optionals — Women

(Finals—Men) **Friday—September 22**

1:00 p.m. Compulsories — Women
7:30 p.m. Optionals — Men

MEN'S TEAM ANNOUNCED AND INTRODUCED AT CONCLUSION OF SESSION.

(Finals—Women) **Saturday—September 23**

Final set of optionals (time to be determined)
for women and introduction of women's team at
end of session.



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(Continued from page 15)

with the judging situation. I believe my own judging was relatively unbiased. I also felt as though I didn't have to play the game by the rules some were trying to impose on me. I made up my own rules and fortunately Kurt was good enough to get through on his own. It certainly should have been a wider margin, however. I consider our performance as one more positive step in establishing U.S. gymnastics as a threat to the best in the world.

Romanian Invitational All-Around Results

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1. Kurt Thomas USA | 54.45 | 55.75 | 110.20 |
| 2. Dan Gecu ROM | 54.15 | 56.00 | 110.15 |
| 3. Georgescu Aurelian ROM | 54.05 | 55.70 | 109.75 |
| 4. Cepos Sorin ROM | 53.90 | 55.75 | 109.65 |
| 5. Lev Andrey USSR | 53.75 | 54.75 | 108.50 |
| 6. Chertchev Ion ROM | 53.25 | 54.85 | 108.10 |
| 7. Makut Bogdan USSR | 53.55 | 54.40 | 107.95 |
| 8. Popescu Gabriel ROM | 52.70 | 53.65 | 106.35 |
| 9. Jonsch Bernd FRG | 52.25 | 53.75 | 106.00 |
| 10. Oprescu Nicolae ROM | 51.15 | 54.15 | 105.30 |
| 11. Varnos Istvan HUN | 51.20 | 53.75 | 104.95 |
| 12. Enrique Bravo CUBA | 50.85 | 53.20 | 104.05 |
| 13. Bars Mihai ROM | 51.20 | 52.80 | 104.00 |
| 14. Giannomasi Nazareno ITAL | 50.30 | 52.80 | 103.10 |
| 15. Macella Lena ROM | 49.15 | 52.70 | 101.85 |
| 16. Hartmut Schmit DDR | 48.85 | 52.75 | 101.60 |



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Individual Event Finals

Floor Exercise

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Georgescu Amelien | ROM | 18.825 |
| 2. | Kurt Thomas | USA | 18.550 |
| 3. | Giantomaso Nazari | ITA | 18.300 |
| 4. | Cheerches Ion | ROM | 18.250 |
| 5. | Makut Bogdan | USSR | 18.225 |
| 6. | Hartmut Schmitz | DDR | 18.150 |
| 7. | Varnos Istvan | HUNG | 18.100 |
| 8. | Jenschi Bernd | DDR | 18.075 |

Side Horse

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Kurt Thomas | USA | 18.850 |
| 2. | Cepoi Sorin | ROM | 18.550 |
| 3. | Lev Andrei | USSR | 17.975 |
| 4. | Enrique Bravo | CUBA | 17.950 |
| 5. | Makut Bogdan | USSR | 17.825 |
| 6. | Bucuresti Romulus | ROM | 17.350 |
| 7. | Varnos Istvan | HUNG | 16.700 |
| 8. | Varga Janos | HUNG | 16.325 |

Rings

| | | | |
|----|------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Gecu Dan | ROM | 19.400 |
| 2. | Cheerches Ion | ROM | 18.925 |
| 3. | Lev Andrei | USSR | 18.350 |
| 4. | Hartmut Schmitz | DDR | 18.050 |
| 5. | Jenschi Bernd | DDR | 17.825 |
| 6. | Fik Josef | CSSR | 17.700 |
| 7. | Luis R. Gonzalez | ESP | 17.600 |
| 8. | Enrique Bravo | CUBA | 17.300 |

Vault

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|-------|--------|
| 1. | Hartmut Schmitz | DDR | 9.275 | 18.775 |
| 2. | Georgescu Amelien | ROM | 9.400 | 18.625 |
| 3. | Jenschi Bernd | DDR | 9.375 | 18.625 |
| 4. | Varga Janos | HUNG | 9.375 | 18.575 |
| 5. | Maerck Bogdan | USSR | 9.400 | 18.575 |
| 6. | Gabriel Popescu | ROM | 9.200 | 18.425 |
| 7. | Varnos Istvan | HUNG | 9.100 | 18.375 |
| 8. | Kurt Thomas | USA | 9.050 | 18.300 |

Parallel Bars

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Kurt Thomas | USA | 18.650 |
| 2. | Lev Andrei | USSR | 18.375 |
| 3. | Makut Bogdan | USSR | 18.150 |
| 4. | Georgescu Amelien | ROM | 18.025 |
| 5. | Jenschi Bernd | DDR | 17.825 |
| 6. | Varnos Istvan | HUNG | 17.725 |
| 7. | Cepoi Sorin | ROM | 17.700 |
| 8. | Enrique Bravo | CUBA | 17.525 |

Horizontal Bars

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|------|--------|
| 1. | Makut Bogdan | USSR | 19.000 |
| 2. | Lev Andrei | USSR | 18.950 |
| 3. | Cepoiu Nicolae | ROM | 18.825 |
| 4. | Kurt Thomas | USA | 18.800 |
| 5. | Cepoi Sorin | ROM | 18.775 |
| 6. | Varnos Istvan | HUNG | 18.225 |
| 7. | Alfred Lefebvre | RDG | 18.125 |
| 8. | Jenschi Bernd | RDG | 17.625 |

East German Invitational 1978

Paul Ziert

I am not including our travel arrangements, timetables, etc., in my report. I wish that one important point remain in your minds after reading this — American gymnasts can successfully compete in the eastern block countries.

Bert Conner, Mike Wilson, and I, having just completed a great NCAA Championships in Eugene, Oregon, and not having had sufficient time to celebrate, made very strong commitments to each other that we were not going to let anything affect our mental high. Factors which we openly discussed as potential invaders were accommodations, schedules, bodily aches and pains, and most importantly, scores. Our objective was quite simple — we wished to display the NEW American version of gymnastics, aggressive gymnastics performed with technical perfection. Contrary to the beliefs of many people, the general impression one leaves is of much greater importance than either the place or score. A first place finish when the top gymnasts ratio does very little for our program. Additionally, with the aforementioned objective, we were invincible! The common strategy of scoring our gymnasts low at first causing us to make mistakes later was not going to work.

Now, some facts to have in mind before I summarize the competition:

- (1) Six events were to be run simultaneously, with four judges per event. Total number of judges: 24. Seventeen of the judges were East German and two were from the western bloc.
- (2) All four judges sat together at one table at each of the six events.
- (3) Most countries entered two gymnasts, East Germany entered nine — their top nine, and Romania used three.
- (4) The draw for order was clever. The coun-

try with the largest number of entries got first choice of order, the country with the second largest number of entries got second choice, etc. Hence, East Germany elected to start on floor exercise, Romania got pommel horse; the United States was awarded vaulting as its starting point.

- (5) Norway, Switzerland, and the United States were the only western countries to send gymnasts. Canada, Japan, France, etc., had not accepted invitations.
- (6) Few results were available throughout the competitions. In fact, I still do not have a set of final results, hence, this report will be more of an overview than a statistical account.
- (7) The structure of the men's competition was that the optional exercises on Saturday afternoon would determine the all-around and qualifiers for the event finals. The optional exercises by the top six gymnasts in each event on Sunday afternoon would determine the event winners.
- (8) Norway, Switzerland, and the United States were housed in the hotel Stadt Berlin, which was appropriately a mile from the hotel where the other countries were housed.

The first round — the All-Around Finals for Men, began promptly at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. It was absolutely incredible how efficiently a group could run a competition. The entire competition was completed in one hour and forty minutes with some 31 gymnasts participating.

When the final results were announced, they reflected an unbelievable showing by the Americans. The All-Around results were:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| (1) Bruchner | GDR | 56.55 |
|--------------|-----|-------|

| | | | |
|-----|------------|-----|-------|
| (2) | Conner | USA | 55.45 |
| (3) | M. Nikolay | GDR | 55.35 |
| (4) | Mack | GDR | 55.15 |
| (5) | Sajna | Pol | 54.75 |
| (6) | Wilson | USA | 54.55 |

Furthermore, early the next morning we were informed that both Bart and Mike had qualified for individual finals in all six events. With the trip already a complete success, the Sunday competition would be going on the cake – and that it was!

Floor Exercise:

Both Bart and Mike performed very well. Mike used full in for his mount and was very clean finishing with a full punch front. His score was a very conservative 9.3. Sajna followed Mike with an okay routine, double back and double full. His score was also 9.3. With Sajna having a higher qualifying score, he took the Bronze. Interestingly enough, Sajna very apologetically gave the award to Mike. (Many times we forget how knowledgeable and honest the athletes are!)

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Final Results: | Mike – 4th |
| | Bart – 5th |

Pommel Horse:

This is quickly becoming an American event. Mike had one slip but performed his routine with excellent amplitude, scoring 8.75. Bart was incredible! He swung wide and with unbelievable confidence to score the highest score of the entire competition, a 9.55 – gold medal and the playing of the American national anthem. Great!

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Final Results: | Bart – 1st |
| | Mike – 5th |

Rings:

Our swing mechanics were by far the best of the competition. However, we do need to work on leather straps in this country. The change is not impossible, but our gymnasts tend to show a lack of steadiness when trying to switch from cloth to leather straps. Nevertheless, Bart and Mike showed very well in this event – the buggo for both the Romanians and the East Germans.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Final Results: | Bart – 3rd |
| | Mike – 6th |

Vaulting:

Out with the air board and in with the old wooden board – Mike was able to show his great power in this event, nailing an open piked takahara and hand-spring front to average 9.45. Bart did an excellent piked 9.5 and then over-rotated his layout takahara

to a backward roll.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Final Results: | Mike – 4th |
| | Bart – 6th |

Parallel Bars:

Going into the finals, Bart and Mike stood 1st and 4th, respectively. Mike did a very nice routine with excellent diamidov and static handstands. Bart, going all out to fully display our objective, was great except for his press on one bar.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Final Results: | Mike – 3rd (Finally, Mike had earned a medal). |
| | Bart – 4th |

High Bar:

We were now 4½ hours into the competition. We weren't sure it would ever end! Mike was steady and clean here surviving his incredibly taxing day with no major battle scars. Bart was on to the Max – here again reflecting that the Americans are not going to let down no matter what. He showed excellent extension and aggressiveness, scoring 9.5.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Final Results: | Bart – 2nd |
| | Mike – 3th |

General Summary:

I know that I cannot begin to express the pride I felt as we finished the competition. For what could have been a real disaster, we had turned into a major American success. The places and scores were somewhat exciting, but of lasting importance was that we had truly and completely achieved our goal. We had shown incredibly the new American gymnastics – aggressive gymnastics performed with technical perfection.

WE HAVE ARRIVED!! 🐾

The Romanian International

Bacau, Romania • April 21-23, 1978

Vannie Edwards

Replacing the United States in the meet was Kathy Johnson and her coach Vannie Edwards.

The competitive equipment met international specifications but was far below the standards that our United States gymnasts have become accustomed to. Specific examples are:

the bars were stiff
the beam was shaky
the floor pad hard
the waiting board dead.
Old cliché's but very true!

The competition was judged by twelve Romanians, one Russian, one East German, one Hungarian and one Czech. One could easily say that this was a communist bloc judging panel.

Four events were run simultaneously and the meet was run efficiently with a few exceptions; the language barrier made communication virtually impossible, and the scores were very difficult to obtain. We later found out that the scores on the sheet did not coincide with the scores flashed.

Kathy Johnson competed in twelve events; four compulsory, four optional and four events in the finals. Out of twelve events she only had one medium break on an aerial on the beam.

In the finals Kathy tied for first in vault with 18.775, she was second in floor with 19.000, third in uneven bars with 18.775 and third in beam with 18.550. She had to really work for her scores, whether they were what she deserved or not. I was delightfully pleased with her performance. We ended the competition receiving one gold, one silver and two bronze medals. We were delighted to have reaped such a harvest from behind the iron curtain.

Our deepest thanks to the U.S.G.F., for giving us

the privilege of representing the United States in this international competition.

All-Around Results

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. Neacu, Marilena | ROM | 37.90 | 37.55 | 75.45 |
| 2. Turner, Damarita | ROM | 37.15 | 37.65 | 74.80 |
| 3. Trusca, Gabriela | ROM | 36.90 | 37.85 | 74.75 |
| 4. Grigoras, Anca | ROM | 37.30 | 37.45 | 74.65 |
| 5. Johnson, Kathy | USA | 37.00 | 37.60 | 74.60 |
| 6. Bruta, Angela | ROM | 36.15 | 37.15 | 73.30 |
| 7. Olincea, Mirela | ROM | 36.65 | 36.50 | 73.15 |
| 8. Savu, Carmen | ROM | 36.25 | 36.75 | 73.00 |
| 9. Dumen, Rodica | ROM | 36.55 | 36.35 | 72.90 |
| 10. Stewart, Ellen | CAN | 35.85 | 35.35 | 72.20 |
| 11. Gould, Karen | CAN | 36.00 | 36.10 | 72.10 |
| 12. Sosin, Margareta | POL | 35.45 | 36.45 | 71.90 |
| 13. Giurgiu, Marinella | ITA | 35.40 | 36.45 | 71.85 |
| 14. Lucke, Jacqueline | DDR | 35.90 | 36.15 | 71.65 |
| 15. Pado, Federica | ITA | 35.50 | 36.05 | 71.55 |

Vault

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Grigoras, A. | ROM | 18.775 |
| 2. Johnson, K. | USA | 18.775 |
| 3. Turner, D. | ROM | 18.600 |
| 4. Hrabovsky, J. | HUN | 18.100 |
| 5. Elze, M. | SSR | 18.050 |
| 6. Gould, K. | CAN | 17.925 |
| 7. Umlauf, B. | DDR | 17.925 |

Uneven Bars

| | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Trusca, G. | ROM | 19.175 |
| 2. Neacu, M. | ROM | 18.950 |

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| | | |
|-------------------|------|--------|
| 3. Johnson, K. | USA | 18.775 |
| 4. Lucke, J. | DDR | 18.575 |
| 5. Gaidamova, J. | CSSR | 18.400 |
| 6. Kruckeberg, J. | BEL | 18.325 |
| 7. Giorgioni, M. | ITA | 18.325 |

Balance Beam

| | | |
|------------------|------|--------|
| 1. Nemes, M. | ROM | 19.200 |
| 2. Turner, D. | ROM | 18.975 |
| 3. Johnson, K. | USA | 18.850 |
| 4. Gould, K. | CAN | 18.450 |
| 5. Giorgioni, M. | ITA | 18.300 |
| 6. Janas, G. | USSR | 18.000 |
| 7. Umbal, B. | DDR | 17.575 |

Floor Exercise

| | | |
|----------------|------|--------|
| 1. Turner, D. | ROM | 19.100 |
| 2. Johnson, K. | USA | 19.000 |
| 3. Nemes, M. | ROM | 18.850 |
| 4. Janas, G. | USSR | 18.400 |
| 5. Lucke, J. | DDR | 18.350 |
| 6. Kasper, K. | DDR | 18.325 |
| 7. Gould, K. | CAN | 18.200 |

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Registration fee of \$25.00 should be sent to the USGF and as in years past this includes the annual banquet, and attendance at all meetings. This years CONGRESS will feature reports by the coaches named for the world Championships 1978 — the presentation of MASTER OF SPORTS awards and the naming and awarding of the male and female "GYMNASTS OF THE YEAR". Next years schedule will need a lot of time on the agenda...Pan-American Games year...World Cup year, and 1979 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS YEAR...in the U.S.A. for the first time in our history and that meet is the qualification round for the 1980 Olympic Games.

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Comments on Compulsory Exercises

Floor Alex Lylo

The most important in this exercise is the acrobatics. With this we don't want to say, that the other gymnastics movements can be neglected.

We call attention to the fact, that beside the faults mentioned in the table of taxation, there can occur other faults in the final body positions. These is stated in the note: Other faults according to the Code of points IGP, 1975 Edition.

1. The start of the exercise (part I) must be executed with suppleness and with maximum amplitude.
2. The salto forward (part II) must be expressively tucked. The downward movement of the landing leg begins at the moment, when the gymnast refined orientation. It must be shown distinctly, that the weight of the body rests for a short time on one leg. The movement of the arms is free. The connections to the handspring forward and to the hecht leap to roll forward must be executed in correct rhythm.

As to the rhythm, the whole acrobatic combination must demonstrate the continued forward movement.

In time duration the execution of the salto and handspring is shorter than that of the hecht leap. The last should be the outcome of the two previous springs.

The deductions are: salto forward picked up to 1,00 pt. Lack of height in the hecht leap — under the shoulder level. Deduction up to 0,2 pt.

3. Standing scale sideways is a typical gymnastic position. The whole movement starts with a step of the right leg forward and goes on harmonically to the final position. The movement of the arms and the left leg must be synchronized and finally fixed in the right position.
4. The head kip must be executed with energy and stopped in the straddle stand with body bent forward, arms sideward.
5. During the swing backward to the handstand (part

VIII) no step forward is allowed. Otherwise the deduction will be 0,1 pt.

6. The jump in the part IX must be executed with suppleness and rhythm and without interruption in the turn (to be executed as a jump with $5/8$ turn). Turn without jumping results in a deduction of 0,2 pt.
7. The salto backward in the part X must be expressively piked (at least 90°). The tucked salto will be penalized with a deduction up to 1,00 pt.

The same can be said about the last acrobatic combination, which should be the culmination of the whole exercise with regard not only to the execution but also to the rhythm.

8. The tucked salto backward with late rotation must be executed with distinctly stretched body in the upward flight and with intensively tucked body during the rotation. The rotation is then followed by a swift stretching of the body and is ending into a steady stand. If the salto is executed without late rotation, the deduction is up to 1,00 p.
9. The duration of the floor exercise is not limited. The only two stops show, that the exercise is very pretending as to the respiration. In spite of this it must be executed with greatest precision and perfection.

Side Horse Akitomo Koneko

1. The exercise must begin in the stand in front of the middle of the saddle, not in front of the pommel.

Before starting the mount no step is allowed. Otherwise the deduction is 0,1 — 0,2 pts.

2. The double Swiss (IV) and the single Swiss (V) can be executed either with simultaneous change of grips and hop, or with successive change of grips.
3. If, at the beginning of the double leg circle in the part VII, the body is too much bent forward, the deduction is up to 0,3 pts.
4. Touching the body of the horse with feet when beginning the double leg circle in the part VII — the deduction is 0,3 — 0,5 pts.

5. If, during the wende dismount (part X), the support hand is too near to the pommel, the deduction is up to 0,2 pts.

Rings Tuomo Jolentie

1. Part I – The light swing forward (max 45°) can be executed with bent or stretched body.
2. Part III – The backward swing following the kip must be executed at least 30° above the horizontal. The higher body position is allowed only without stop in the handstand.
Deductions: Swing under 30° up to 0,2 pts.
Stop in the handstand up to 0,3 pts.
3. After the hanging scale frontways (part VI) it is permitted to raise lightly the body, eventually to bend it lightly forward.
4. Part X – If the flège upward swing does not go through the handstand, i.e. the distance between the hands is too large, the deduction is up to 0,3 pts.
5. Part XI – The dismount with straight body is allowed.

Vault Boris Chokhlin

Handspring with support on the rear end of horse.

1. The compulsory vault must be developed in the second flight.
2. For the higher position of the body in the preflight and for the insufficient height in the second flight the deduction can be up to 0,3 pts.

Parallel Bars Karl-Heinz Zschocke

1. The whole exercise, excepting the two hold parts, must be executed in full swing and without disturbances of the rhythm.
2. The stops in handstands (part VI and VII) are considered as disturbances of the rhythm. The deduction is each time up to 0,2 pts.
3. The dismount (part X) must be executed with bent body. The half turn can be executed in- or outward.

Horizontal Bar Enrique Gonzolez

1. Part I – The exercise must begin in the overgrip.
2. The change of grip after the upstart (part II) can be executed during the swing backward to the handstand, but it is not obligatory.

In any case the gymnast mustn't lose the right rhythm when changing the grip.

3. Part IV – The body position after the circle rearways forward with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn must be at least 45°.
4. The underwing with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn must be executed with full amplitude.
5. During the dismount (part XI) the body must first be bent and then stretched at the moment according to the right technique of the $\frac{1}{2}$ turn.
If the dismount is executed with stretched body, the deduction is up to 0,3 pts.



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USGF News

New Club Memberships Available in USGF

The USGF will soon be sending out invitations for club memberships in the USGF. After several years of discussion on the matter, the USGF will allow club memberships in a special category, allowing the Club to receive direct mailings of both a general and technical nature, including the USGF NEWS. Special Technical Bulletins, along with announcements of tours, and team trials, as well as meet schedules, will be sent the Club after it has been listed as a USGF affiliate and is carried on the membership list at the USGF National Office.

The next issue of the USGF NEWS will probably carry an application, or, if your club wishes to get ahead of the game before Fall and the busy times ahead, please write the USGF and request a USGF CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

Remember, it is a special membership designed to bring direct information to your club.

USGF Designs Safety/Sports Medicine Division

The USGF has given serious consideration to developing a USGF SAFETY DIVISION. It would have two major areas of concern. On the one hand we will move into the area of safety as it relates to equipment, floor and gymnasium planning, and certification or appropriate recognition of instructors in the area of artistic and modern rhythmic gymnastics. We have taken steps to also work in the area of Sports Medicine and this area would seek to develop guidelines for training and developing of gymnasts, while co-operating with the U.S. Olympic Committee (as they already have begun positive action in this specialized area) to test outstanding athletes in the sport of gymnastics.

We will seek the cooperation of the medical profession for phase two, and the various equipment companies for phase one. It will serve the sport in many positive ways, and should bring into focus an area that deserves more attention as our sport grows in the USA. ■



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